

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An interface apparatus comprising:

a USB interface portion which makes communication with an external first device via a USB cable;

5 a parallel interface portion which makes communication with an external second device via a parallel cable; and

a control portion which, after a processing command signal has been received from the first device
10 via the USB interface, when a signal state of the parallel interface portion is detected, and then, it is determined that the second device connected to the parallel interface portion enters a power saving mode, generates a switch signal for switching the current
15 power saving mode to a normal mode to supply the switch signal to the second device via the parallel interface portion; and after it has been detected that the second device has been switched into the normal mode, controls the processing command signal so as to be supplied to
20 the second device via the parallel interface portion.

2. An interface apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the processing command signal is a print command signal with image information, and the second device is a printer unit.

25 3. An interface apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the control portion having received the print command signal with the image information stores the

image information in a storage region; reads out the
image information from the storage region after it has
been detected that the second device has been switched
to a normal mode; and controls the read-out image
5 information together with the processing command signal
so as to be supplied to the second device via the
parallel interface portion.

4. An interface apparatus comprising:

a USB interface portion which makes communication
10 with an external first device via a USB cable;

a parallel interface portion which makes
communication with an external second device via
a parallel cable; and

a control portion which, when a command for
15 notifying a status of the parallel interface portion is
issued from the first device via the USB interface
portion, returns the status to the USB interface
portion in response to the command; when a switch
command for switching a power saving mode of the second
20 device to a normal mode is issued from the first device
via the USB interface portion, generates a switch
signal for switching the current power saving mode to
the normal mode in response to the switch command; when
it is detected that the second device is switched to
25 the normal mode, returns the fact to the first device
via the USB interface portion; and further, if a print
command is issued from the first device via the USB

interface portion, controls the print command so as to be supplied to the second device via the parallel interface portion.

5 5. An interface apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a status command of the parallel interface portion via the USB interface portion is GET_PORT_STATUS.

10 6. An interface apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a switch command for switching the power saving mode from the USB interface portion to a normal mode is SOFT_RESET.

15 7. An interface apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a switch signal to be generated to switch the power saving mode to the normal mode is a pulse to be supplied to an nInit line of the parallel interface portion.

..... 8. An image forming apparatus comprising:

20 an image forming portion having a power saving mode and a normal mode, the image forming portion forming an image according to image information on a recording medium; and

 an interface portion having:

25 a parallel interface portion which is connected to the image forming portion via a parallel cable;

 a USB interface portion which makes communication with an external device via a USB

cable; and

a control portion which, upon receipt of an indication signal from the external device, when a signal state of the parallel interface portion is detected, and then, it is determined that the image forming portion connected to the parallel interface portion enters a power saving mode, generates a switch signal for switching to a normal mode to be supplied to the image forming portion via the parallel interface portion, and which, after it has been detected by the switch signal that the image forming portion has been switched to the normal mode, the processing command, controls the processing command signal so as to be supplied to the image forming portion via the parallel interface portion.

9. An image forming apparatus according to claim 8; wherein the control portion having received the print command signal and the image information from the external device switches the image forming portion from the power saving mode to the normal mode in response to the receipt.

10. An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein, when a command for notifying a status of the parallel interface portion is issued from the external device via the USB interface portion, the control portion returns the status to the external device via the USB interface portion in response to

the command; when a switch command for switching
a power saving mode of the image forming portion to
a normal mode is further issued from the external
device via the USB interface portion, the control
5 portion generates a switch signal for switching to the
normal mode in response to the switch command to be
supplied to the image forming portion via the parallel
interface portion; when it is detected that the image
forming portion has been switched to the normal mode,
10 the control portion returns the fact to the external
device via the USB interface portion; and when a print
command is further issued from the external device via
the USB interface, the control portion controls the
print command so as to be supplied to the image forming
15 portion via the parallel interface portion.